

a second inhibiting element which holds another part of the frame together with the rail when the carriage has slid to the hold position to inhibit a vertically upward movement of the frame.

14. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 13, wherein the second inhibiting element includes a plurality of inhibiting elements arranged in the second direction.

15. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 14, wherein the second inhibiting elements are provided along those opposite sides of the frame, which extend in the first direction.

16. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 14, wherein the first inhibiting element is provided in that one of the second inhibiting elements, which is located at a most upstream side in the direction in which the carriage slides toward the hold position.

17. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 13, wherein the first and second inhibiting elements are located in positions in which the first and second inhibiting elements do not interrupt the frame when the frame is situated in a position other than the hold position.

18. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 13, wherein the first inhibiting element has a spring structure which prevents the part of the frame from moving in the first direction, and the second inhibiting element has a spring structure which presses said another part of the frame against the rail to hold the frame.

19. (New) A scanner unit comprising:

a first carriage provided with a first frame extending in a first direction along a document surface of a document set substantially horizontal, and an optical member mounted on the first frame which illuminates the document surface and guides light reflected from the document surface;

a second carrier provided with a second frame extending in the first direction along the document surface of the document set substantially horizontal, and an optical member mounted on the second frame which guides, to a light receiving element, light guided from the document surface via the optical member mounted on the first frame;

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a first rail extending along the document surface in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, and mounting thereon the first frame such that the first frame can slide in the second direction;

a second rail extending in the second direction and supporting the second frame such that the second frame can slide in the second direction;

a fixing member that fixes the second frame at one end side of the second rail;

a coupling member coupling the first and second frames such that the first frame can be driven by the second frame, or vice versa, the first carriage being driven by the second carriage and slid to a hold position when the second frame is fixed in a predetermined position by the fixing member;

a first inhibiting element which receives a part of the first frame when the first carriage has slid along the first rail to the hold position to inhibit a movement of the first frame in the first direction; and

a second inhibiting element which holds another part of the first frame together with the first rail when the first carriage has slid to the hold position to inhibit a vertically upward movement of the first frame.